

room, arranged to have it made a restricted part of the Carnegie Public Library, the medical profession enjoying special privileges in using it.

Dr. Mattison spoke to the society on the subject of "Pure Food" and "Illegal Practitioners." The matter of a clean food supply has been kept well in hand by our City Health Officer, Dr. W. W. Roblee, and the officers of the Society have charge of the prosecution of illegal practitioners. We are practically free from these offenders, the result of continued vigilance and a sympathetic law-enforcing district attorney.

At our meeting held Monday evening at the home of Dr. T. R. Griffith, Dr. H. A. Atwood of Riverside read a paper on "Atonic Dilatation of the Stomach." The Society voted that in compliance with the suggestion of the Secretary (or some other officer of the A. M. A.) we should make an effort to increase our membership and invite all licensed physicians not practicing sectarian medicine to come in with us.

The Southern California Medical Society meets at the Glenwood Hotel in December. It may not be out of place to have it noted that through the society as a whole or through the efforts of one or more of its individual members, a public meeting was held this year, when the physicians discussed the tuberculosis question, its "Cause and Prevention." A paper was later read before a convention of W. C. T. U. Workers on the "Patent Medicine Fraud" and more than two hundred Viavi reprints were circulated.

We have abolished "lodge contract practice," "three-dollar old line insurance examinations" and "one dollar lodge insurance examinations." The vaccination law is complied with or enforced. We are trying to establish the branch medical library and we hope to increase our membership and thereby increase our influence. Next month the compulsory vaccination law will be discussed or rather debated publicly.

GEORGE E. TUCKER, Secretary.

#### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.

As we are nearing the close of the year, a resume of the work of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society may prove interesting to the readers of the State Journal of Medicine. Our Society has only monthly meetings, and as the sessions only average about two hours each—or twenty-four hours in the course of the year—we can not be expected to get over a great amount of scientific space. Therefore, when we cast up accounts, I consider we have done remarkably well, though we hope to advance on this during 1908. The January session was for business and the election of officers. The subject of medical ethics, fees and collections, and relations between physicians and druggists was discussed.

The February meeting was semi-public. The subject of school hygiene and physical defects in pupils being set for discussion. The Superintendent of City Schools, High School principal and grade principals and teachers were present in good numbers; along with members of Board of School Trustees. The meeting was interesting and enthusiastic and was productive of much permanent good.

In March we took up the subject of hygienic bathing. At this also some of the school principals were present.

The April session was occupied with the important subject of gastric ulcer.

In May we took up typhoid fever. Also this month the Society made an important departure in the calling of a special session (which was of the nature of an informal reception) in honor of Mr. Samuel Hopkins Adams, of "Great American Fraud"

fame. At this special session, in addition to members, we entertained the Superior Judge and other prominent citizens. The judge and other gentlemen joined in the discussion of Mr. Adams' work.

In June we had an interesting paper on "Chronic Suppuration of the Middle Ear."

The July meeting was occupied with a symposium on "Cholelithiasis."

In August the Society took up the question of "Some Sanitary Problems."

In September we had a most exhaustive symposium on "Anesthesia," going fully into its history, kinds and methods.

In October the Society listened to a timely paper on "Polyadenitis Malignant" (plague). Also an essay on "Arterio-sclerosis" and its relationship to toxemia and intestinal intoxication.

In November we were visited (on invitation) by a member of the San Francisco County Medical Society (Dr. Cullen F. Welty), who favored us with a good and practical paper on the "Pathology of Acute Purulent Otitis, With Indications for Operative Interference in Acute Mastoiditis."

And finally, we are expecting in December a symposium on "Infantile Paralysis." Also we have invited to address us at this session, on the important subject of milk contamination, one of the veterinary inspectors of the United States Government (Dr. Rosenberger). Thus you see we are really alive down in Santa Barbara, and are, I firmly believe, gaining some in strength and importance. We are trying to emphasize practical clinical reports at our monthly sessions, and I am pleased to say that gentlemen are commencing to report and exhibit patients and pathological specimens.

The attendance throughout the year has only been an average one, but the members are coming out a little better all the time. As the result of the year's work then, I can say that we have advanced some scientifically, and strengthened friendly and cordial relationships in the profession. Some additional members are coming in the first of the new year.

WILLIAM. T. BARRY, Secretary.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

**The Immediate Care of the Injured.** By Albert S. Morrow, A. B., M. D., Attending Surgeon to the Worlhouse Hospital and to the New York City Hospital for the Aged and Infirm; Assistant Attending Surgeon to the Manhattan Maternity Hospital. Fully Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

Layman and doctor are liable at any time to be confronted with an emergency which, through want of equipment on the one hand, or knowledge on the other, may prove a serious tax on their resources and ingenuity. A more general knowledge of "first aids" would not only be of benefit in the alleviation of suffering, but what is more important, prevent infliction of additional injury by the sympathetic, but ignorant bystander in his well-meant attempts to "do something." Hence, any book that would be available for general use would be a valuable one. Doctor Morrow in his book of 323 pages has met this requirement very successfully. For the special benefit of those without medical knowledge he devotes the first part to a brief outline of anatomy and physiology, presented in simple language as free as possible from technicalities. Following this are several chapters treating of bandages, slings, dressings and practical remedies (heat, cold, poultices, counter-irritants), antiseptics and disinfectants. The third and last portion deals with accidents and emergencies; hemorrhage, inflammation, contusions, wounds, burns, scalds, exposure to cold, fractures,

dislocations, sprains, asphyxia, removal of foreign bodies and poisoning. A chapter on the transportation of the injured terminates the book. Here the author follows the drill regulations of the United States Army Corps. Throughout the book the treatment is, with few exceptions, limited to temporary assistance pending the arrival of medical aid. There are numerous illustrations, many of them original, which go far towards clearing up points in the text which might otherwise be misunderstood. This book certainly justifies the author's claims and we unhesitatingly recommend it alike to physicians, nurses and laymen.

K. I. L.

**Behind the Scenes With the Mediums.** By David P. Abbott. The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago. Price \$1.50 net.

Many years ago two little girls, the Fox Sisters, startled the world with their mysterious rappings. This was the beginning of modern Spiritualism. Soon after this, mediums began appearing all over the country, who could cause raps to sound on furniture, tables to tip, etc. Next, professional mediums began traveling over the country, giving exhibitions in rope-tying and cabinet manifestations. Later came the slate-writing, the billet test mediums, etc., until at the present day there are many hundreds of persons following this profession for a livelihood. There are several hundreds of them in Chicago alone.

In the present work, Mr. Abbott has given to the public a collection of the most valuable secrets of mediumistic work in existence.

Most of the secrets revealed in this book were obtained by Mr. Abbott directly from mediums, while he purchased not a few of them from dealers at exorbitant prices. He has given his very best secrets in this work; and being a practical performer himself, although not a medium, he has included only up-to-date secrets that are thoroughly professional and practical and such as are actually being used by professional performers and mediums of the present day, in mystifying an innocent public.

For the magician and performer this book is invaluable, while for the honest spiritualist it is a boon long needed. Honest believers in Spiritualism do not desire to be duped by impostors and charlatans. In this book many tricks of such persons are so thoroughly exposed, that by studying its pages any one may become a competent investigator of any phenomenon of a super-normal appearance.

That the reader may understand how the secrets herein revealed have been treasured and guarded from the public heretofore, and of the value placed on them by performers, we will state that the value of the secrets contained in this volume estimated at the prices charged for them by dealers, would run into hundreds of dollars. Not a few of the secrets contained have sold at twenty-five dollars each, while a number of them have never even been offered for sale, the little chapter on "Vest Turning" contains a secret that is being sold today for two dollars and fifty cents, while the secret contained in the chapter, "Performances of the Annie Eva Fay Type" was sold to a medium of Mr. Abbott's acquaintance for two hundred and fifty dollars.

Many of the slate tricks are worth at least ten dollars each, and the book is very complete in its exposure of slate-writing and billet work. The exposure of the billet tests of certain Chicago mediums of the present day is of great value. It is impossible to enumerate here all the valuable secrets which this work contains. Owing to the bearing of the subject on the question of personal immortality, the work has a certain philosophical import; and in addition to this, descriptions are presented in a very interesting manner.

Mr. Abbott is a member of the American Society for Psychical Research and has written on the subject for the journal of that society.

**Tumors Innocent and Malignant; Their Clinical Characters and Appropriate Treatment.** By J. Bland-Sutton, F. R. C. S., Surgeon to and Member of the Cancer Investigation Committee of the Middlesex Hospital, etc. Fourth Edition, With Three Hundred and Fifty-five Engravings. W. T. Keener & Co., Chicago. MCMVII.

Those who care only for the purely academic side of the study of tumors will find in this volume little of interest. Written more from the standpoint of the clinician than from that of the professional pathologist, it naturally has found greater favor amongst practitioners of medicine than scientific investigators. The story of this singularly varied and fascinating world of tumors was a bold thing to undertake; yet Dr. Sutton, peculiarly well fitted for the task, contributed four years ago an admirably well conceived one, which has since been revised and now appears in its fourth edition. In no sense, however, does the present volume constitute a complete review of the pathology of tumors, although it is evident that some effort has been made to embody a few of the ideas that modern investigations have brought with them. Since many of the recent achievements in the study of human pathology have had their origin in observations on lower animals the liberal use by the author of comparative pathology, for the purposes of illustrations, gives a breadth of view not ordinarily found in similar books.

The introductory chapter consists of a rather general discussion of tumors, brief allusion being made to such matters as the liability of organs to the development of tumors, environment in relation to their development, age distribution, multiplicity, and the transformation of innocent into malignant growths; but no mention is here made of the degenerative and destructive processes often encountered in them, of the characteristics which stamp malignancy, nor to the presence of new elastic tissue or nerves. The classification of neoplasms followed by the author is, in greater part, that usually found in text-books of pathology. The separation of the normal tissues into groups is useful, rather because it facilitates their study than because it expresses absolute and fundamental distinctions; the same may be said of all classifications of tumors. The attempt has often been made to classify them with reference to the developmental history of the tissues represented, and it has been generally believed that cells once differentiated in the primary embryonic layers cannot again be merged in type. While this principle holds good in general, particularly for the highly differentiated forms, certain recent studies have seemed to indicate that even this distinction may not be inflexible. Whatever the truth of this may be, it is certain that the cells derived from one embryonic layer may under more or less perfectly understood conditions come so closely to resemble morphologically those of another layer, that a structural differentiation, with our present methods of study, is not always possible. Nevertheless this histogenetic principle of classification is useful and suggestive.

These points have already been exhaustively considered by Marchand in his paper on "The Relationship Between Pathological Anatomy and Embryology," and later by Minot in his admirable address on "The Embryological Basis of Pathology."

Almost the whole of the first third of the book, consisting of about 215 pages, deals with new-growth of the connective-tissue group. The essential points are given with more or less complete-